

18 BIG SHIPS DOWN—TROTSKY 'WARNS' RUMANIA

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One Penny.

BRITISH AIRSHIP WRECKED IN HOLLAND



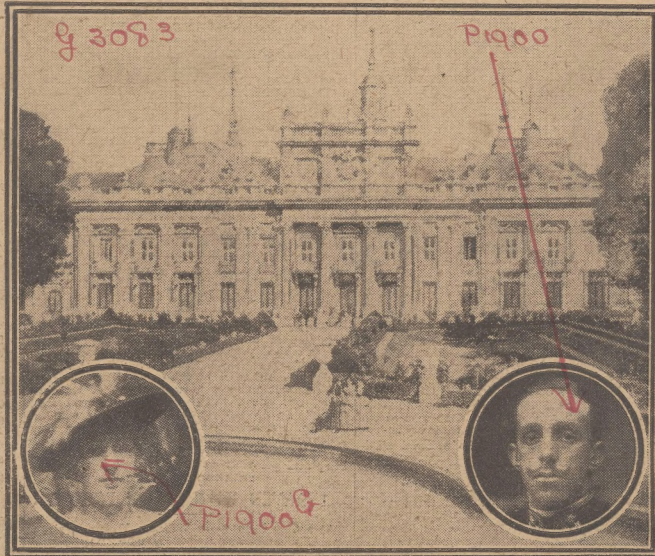
Two photographs of the wrecked airship which came down near Ennes, in Utrecht. According to the Amsterdam *Telegraaf*, the craft was British, and was manned by a crew of five. They will be interned.

MARIE CORELLI FINED.



Miss Marie Corelli, the well-known novelist, who was fined £50, at Stratford-on-Avon yesterday, under the Food Hoarding Order. A report of the case will be found on page 2.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT KING ALFONSO'S PALACE.



The Royal Palace at La Granja, says a Madrid telegram received last night, is in flames. No further particulars had arrived at the time of going to Press. The King of Spain and his Consort are seen in the circles.

HIT PIRATE.



Gunner Ellis Jackson, the youngster who got in seven shots, out of eight on the *Moewe* when his ship engaged the raider. After he had been made prisoner the pirate captain shook him by the hand and congratulated him on his good practice.—
(Exclusive to *The Daily Mirror*.)

LABOUR LEADER'S D.S.O.



Major D. Watts Morgan, the Rhondda miners' leader, awarded the D.S.O. He was in charge of a labour company, which joined the Guards, and drove back the Germans with picks and shovels. Five of the men were decorated on the field.



TO RETIRE?—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador at Washington, who is coming home on leave. It has been reported that he is to retire. He has held several important diplomatic appointments.

RAPID EXTENSION OF MEAT SHORTAGE.

Demand for Cattle To Be Commandeered.

BUTCHERS FORM QUEUE.

The meat shortage is spreading. Consumers of food are not the only people who have to stand in a queue.

Yesterday a small army of retail butchers was obliged to keep a chilly vigil in Smithfield Market for several hours in order to get supplies of frozen lamb which had been specially released by the Government for consumption in the poorer districts.

Some 700 or 800 butchers hailing from all parts of London stood there in a double-line queue. The frozen lamb released yesterday comprised 2,200 carcasses, which were disposed of to the retail butchers at a fixed price of 7s. 8d. a stone.

The superintendent of Smithfield Market stated that the day's supply of meat had amounted to 744 tons, as against 1,158 upon the corresponding date of last year. The supplies, he said, were not nearly sufficient for the trade.

ACUTE BEEF FAMINE.

The beef shortage continues to be very acute. At Peterborough cattle market yesterday only twenty-eight beasts—for which there were fifty applications—were offered for sale, instead of the usual 100; at Manchester there were only 526 head of cattle, as against about 1,500 in normal times.

At Leicester there were only twenty-three head of stock, and some 400 were waiting a year ago. The sale, which was attended by some 300 local butchers, was postponed to to-day, when farmers have promised to send more cattle. Shops will be closed to-day.

News received from other towns.

Romford.—Local butchers stated they would have no meat to sell at the end of the week.

Newport.—The Monmouthshire Chamber of Agriculture protested against the statement that farmers were withholding supplies to obtain a higher price later, and pointed out that the shortage was due to uncertainty as to effect of the present regulations, coupled with the fact that there was a real lack of cattle owing to the restrictions as to feeding and prices.

Preston.—Butchers passed a resolution declaring that the only solution of the present dearth was for the Government to commandeered all live stock and allocate it to districts at a dead weight price.

SIR A. YAPP AND FOOD HOGS

Worker Asks About "Upper Ten"—Great Majority Play the Game.

"Don't you think the upper classes get more on an average than the working classes? If so, isn't it futile for you to ask us to economise when we need every scrap of food we can get?" This question was put to Sir Arthur Yapp after he had addressed the employees of Messrs. Waring and Gillow at Hammersmith yesterday.

Sir Arthur Yapp replied: "I commenced my campaign with the upper ten. I believe that in every section of the community there are food hogs, but the great majority in each section are playing the game."

More than 3,000,000 heads of households have joined the League of National Safety.

AIR MINISTER SWORN IN.

Lord Rothermere at Privy Council—British Museum's Future.

The King held a Privy Council yesterday, at which Lord Rothermere, the President of the Air Council, was sworn a Secretary of State, and by an order in Council the British Museum has been established as from to-day (January 5). It is constituted as follows:—

Lord Rothermere, President of State and President, Major-General Sir John Hunter, K.C.B., Chief of the Air Staff; Rear-Admiral Mark Kerr, C.B., Deputy Chief; Commodore Geoffrey Payne, C.B., Minister General of Personnel; Major-General W. S. Branker, Comptroller General of Equipment; Sir William Weir, Director General of Aircraft Production; Sir John Hunter, K.C.B., Minister of Munitions; Sir John Hunter, K.C.B., Administrator of Works and Buildings; Major J. L. Baird, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary; Sir John Hunter, K.C.B., additional member of Council and vice-president; Sir W. A. Robinson, C.B., has been appointed to act temporarily as secretary to the Council, and Mr. H. W. McNally to act as assistant secretary.

Sir John Hunter, K.C.B., will continue to perform his present duties in the Ministry of Munitions.

The Office of Works issued a statement last night, pointing out that the removal of works of art as a precaution against damage in air raids will render vacant valuable Government space suitable for office accommodation, at no expense and no inconvenience to the general tax payer, and that part of the British Museum is to be so utilised. The use of the reading-room by readers and students will not be interfered with.

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—M. Tardieu, the French High Commissioner, has returned to the States. In an interview he said: "We are entering upon the war's darkest period, but in six months the victory will be decided."—Exchange.

RAINBOWS END TRIP.

Wonders of Flying in England—Can Always See the Sea.

ZEPP CHIEF'S WATCH COMEDY.

How many children, and even grown-ups, have longed to see where the rainbow ends. If you want to know what the end is like read this:—

"I know where the rainbow ends: it ends on the top of every cloud," said Dr. A. P. Thues, I.R.C., to a juvenile audience at the Grafton Galleries yesterday.

"The rainbow becomes smaller and smaller as you approach it until it becomes a ball of fire. Then you run into a clammy cold mist which forms the cloud, and you are 'where the rainbow ends.'"

"Flying near London you see the silvery winding Thames, with London under a great black pall. The Thames looks like a great silver snake which has swallowed a big frog and is having an extremely bad time. The Crystal Palace looks like a palace of burning gold."

"On one occasion I wished to open to my pilot, and under such circumstances it is usual to kick him. As I could not reach him, I tried to poke him with my stick and held it out straight, but the wind actually bent the point of the stick away. Why? Why, it flaps your ears, closes your mouth, bends your nose and even pushes back the movable top of your head!"

"On a clear day it is not possible to go up there in England without seeing the sea. In Hampshire one can see from the Bristol Channel to the mouth of the Thames, the long line of the south coast stretching away with the tiny Isle of Wight in the middle."

He told of a Zeppelin commander who, realising that he was falling, threw out his secret documents and his gold watch into what he thought was the sea. "They were found, and we had the pleasure of handing him his gold watch back and of listening to his remarks."

DON'T MEDDLE WITH MINES

Tragedy of Men Who Thought Explosive Might Be Margarine Case.

"The men were wholly unaware of the dangerous nature of their task," was a statement made yesterday at the inquest at Stonor (Hants) on the bodies of six men who lost their lives as the result of the explosion of a mine recovered from the sea between Deal and Ramsgate. Evidence showed that at first the men thought the mine was a buoy or a float or, as they laughingly remarked, it might be a case of margarine, and they were eager to do a bit of salvaging.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from misadventure, and added that they thought these men ought to be told of the dangerous nature of these things, and that they ought not to meddle with them.

"SHE IS INNOCENT."

Voisin's Statement About Madame Roche in Sack Murder Case.

"I make the formal declaration that Mme. Roche is entirely innocent."

This dramatic statement was made by Louis Voisin, who, in company with Marie Roche, was again brought up at Marlborough-street yesterday, charged with the murder of Emmanuelle Gerard.

Mme. Roche, on hearing these words, burst into tears, and leaning her head on the dock railings sobbed bitterly for some time. Voisin, continuing, said: "The things that were found in Charlotte-street were taken from Mme. Gerard's to my house. The murder was not committed at Charlotte-street, but at Regent-square. Both prisoners were committed for trial."

LABOUR'S FOUR PILLARS.

"New Social Order" and "Surplus Wealth for Common Good."

"Labour and the 'New Social Order' is the title of the draft report of the British Labour Party on reconstruction."

"The view of the Labour Party," says the report, "is that after the war, if we in Britain are to escape from the decay of civilisation itself, which the Japanese statesman Count Okuma foresees, we must ensure that what is presently to be built up is a new social order."

"The four pillars of the house that we propose to erect, resting upon the common foundation of the democratic control of society in all its activities, may be termed respectively:—

"Universal enforcement of the national minimum."

"Democratic control of industry."

"Revolutions in national finance."

"Surge of wealth for the common good."

Regarding the demobilisation of millions of soldiers, the report says:—"On this important point, which is the most urgent of all, the present hour, formulated no plan, and come to no decision."

The Labour party insists that the obligation to find suitable employment in productive work for these men and women rests upon the Government for the time being.

HOME-COMING DRAMA.

Soldier-Husband Charged with Murder of His Wife.

"I ONLY DID MY DUTY."

The drama of a soldier's return from the front was told at Clerkenwell yesterday when Private Stephen Canham, aged twenty-one, of the Machine Gun Corps, was charged with the wilful murder of his wife, Gladys Ann Canham, Divisional Detective-Inspector Neil said that at 8.30 a.m. that morning he went to Great College-street and in a back bedroom on the second floor saw on the bed the woman's body. There was a wound in the chest and back.

When he told prisoner at Somers Town Police Station that he would be charged with the murder of his wife, Canham replied:—

"Yes, I know. I shot her with my service revolver, (pointing to the weapon) 'I consider that I only did my duty as I have done in France.'"

Prisoner also stated that while he was in France his wife sold up the home, left the baby to be looked after by anybody and was leading an immoral life.

When he arrived from France "she somehow got round him," and promised to give up her mode of life. They then went to his mother's house and after getting drunk his wife made a statement which upset him.

"I then got out of bed," he added, "got my revolver and shot her. If she had kept away another day I would not have happened, because I was going back to France next day."

A remand was ordered.

STOLEN BABY DRAMA.

One of Defendants Makes a Statement That Requires Consideration.

The two women—Lilian Jenkins and Mrs. Elizabeth Gills—were again before Mr. Chester Jones, at Lambeth yesterday, charged with being concerned together in stealing and receiving a two-months-old baby girl, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Booth, dining-room proprietors, Herne Hill, from a perambulator.

Mr. Jones, prosecuting, said that certain statements had been handed to him by Mrs. Gills. They required careful consideration.

The magistrate remanded the women for a week, granting bail to each of them.

LIT PIPE WITH NOTES.

County Magnate Who Ended His Days as an Ostler.

Once the owner of large landed estates at Colchester, George Arthur Coulson has died there in poverty in his seventy-ninth year.

He is said to have frequently lit his pipe with banknotes and to have scrambled sovereigns among the crowd on public occasions.

He had been a well-known figure with the Essex and Suffolk Hunt and in the Kentish and Hampshire, but eventually he became an ostler at a Colchester hotel, where he worked hard and never grumbled, declaring that if he had his fortune over again he would act in the same way.

EPIDEMIC OF COLDS.

Coal Economy and Jerry-Built Houses the Cause.

Londoners are once again in the grip of colds. The cold has been ascribed in many cases to inadequate heating of City offices and houses.

A great anti-housewifely fearful lest their supply of coal should run out before they are able to get in a further stock, are economising to such an extent that the heat from the dining-room grate is not sufficient to warm the room adequately," a doctor told *The Daily Mirror*.

"Again, a great number of my patients live in jerry-built houses, where windows and doors fit imperfectly, with the result that the occupiers are almost always sitting in a draught."

HAMMERING HINDENBURG

New Pastime for Children at a London Party.

"Hammering Hindenburg" was one of the pastimes at a children's party, held at the Queen's Hall yesterday, with the object of providing for the Y.M.C.A. in France.

There was to have been an effigy of Hindenburg, but the Y.M.C.A. stepped in and said "No." So the effigy was replaced by a wooden piece of wood. A life-sized picture of it was, too, very heroic looking, and drawn by Mr. John Hassall.

The youngsters were invited to "hit Hindenburg and get your own back."

STARVED WITH £27 IN POCKET.

At a City inquest on William Younger, sixty-six, a homeless labourer, who was found dying in a street in Islington, it was stated that he told the doctor that he had had nothing to eat for three days, being unable to afford it.

But when his clothing was searched over £27 was found on him. Death was due to semi-starvation.

MARIE CORELLI'S £50 SUGAR PENALTY.

Lady M. Langton Fined, £80 for Food Hoarding.

SISTER OF AN EARL.

Miss Marie Corelli, the novelist, was at Stratford-on-Avon yesterday summoned for an infringement of the food hoarding order.

It was alleged that the defendant purchased from London and also from local grocers excessive quantities of sugar.

The defence was that the sugar was used for jam making at home.

By a majority the Bench convicted, imposing a fine of £50, and twenty guineas costs.

On the application of Mr. Joy the magistrates consented to state a case.

Counsel for the prosecution said that on the basis of 1lb. of sugar per head per week, Miss Corelli's household was entitled to receive during September and November 32lb. of sugar. She obtained 183lb., independent of preserving sugar.

A policeman who visited Miss Corelli's house said she said to him: "I hear you have been accusing me of hoarding. It has come to a fine thing if women cannot live in their homes without being interfered with by the police."

Witness replied that during the month of 32lb. of sugar and 43lb. of tea had been sent for by the butler. Miss Corelli exclaimed: "It's a lie! The tea has not been delivered here. I should have no use for that quantity. Besides, I am a patriot, and would not think of hoarding. I think you police are oversteering your duty in visiting my house. You are upsetting the country altogether with your food orders and what not. Lloyd George will be resigning to-morrow, and there will be a revolution in England in less than a week."

Defendant said there were nine persons in the house, not seven.

"125LB. OF TEA."

A fine of £80 was imposed by the Chertsey magistrates yesterday upon Lady Mabel Gore Langton, of the Glade, Egham, Surrey, sister of Earl Temple of Stowe, for obtaining food in excessive quantities on divers dates since April.

It was stated that the police on searching defendant's residence found:—

125lb. of tea, 32lb. of coffee, 12 tins of condensed milk, A box of spaghetti, 9lb. of cornflour.

7lb. of tapioca, 33lb. of currants, 20lb. of sugar, 41lb. of sultanas, 9lb. of raisins.

The police have seized all but 12lb. of the tea and also the coffee. The household consisted of twelve persons.

Replying to the police superintendent, Lady Langton said she was unaware the majority of poor persons could only obtain 2oz. of tea weekly, and sometimes not that for three months past.

TRAIN SHOOTING MYSTERY

Officer Dies After Being Found Wounded in Railway Carriage.

When the 4.10 train from Waterloo arrived at Woking yesterday the guard, a dance, a second class compartment an Army officer lying huddled up, covered with blood. On the seat were a number of letters and an attache case. The man was still alive, and he was removed

MOONSHINE FIGURES.

The times of moonrise and moonset are as follow:—

Today Rises. 10.20 a.m. Sets. 10.20 a.m.
Friday 11.5 a.m. 10.35 a.m.
Saturday 12.12 a.m. 10.51 a.m.

The moon enters its last quarter on the morning of January 5, when it will be well on its way south of the Equator.

to the Woking Hospital, where he lingered until nine o'clock.

Passengers reported hearing the discharge of firearms after the train had left Walton-on-Thames, and on search being made, a service revolver was found in the compartment.

NEWS ITEMS.

Marquis as Lecturer.—The Marquis of Milford Haven has been appointed Rede Lecturer at Cambridge.

Eleven Injured in Accident.—Eleven persons were injured by a motor-omnibus overturning near East Finchley Station yesterday.

Clergyman Found Dead.—The Rev. H. L. Dibben, one of the rectors of Caldecote, Nuneaton, was found dead on the railway yesterday.

Noted Sportsman Killed.—Captain William Edwards, Belfast Royal Irish Fusiliers, who was killed in action, was a noted Rugby and swimming international.

Killed by Motor Omnibus.—Knocked down by a motor omnibus in the darkness of Tuesday night at Kingston-on-Thames, an elderly woman, Mary Drew, has died.

Eight V.C.s Decorated.—Among the eight V.C.s decorated by the King yesterday at Buckingham Palace, was Captain Temporary Lieutenant Colonel Bernard C. Freyberg, Royal West Surreys and the R.A.D.

18 BIG SHIPS DOWN—TROTSKY "WARNS" RUSSIA

Russo-Hun Peace Parley Hitch—Release of Imprisoned German Socialists Demanded.

GERMAN LIVELINESS IN THE WEST.

King Alfonso's Summer Palace of La Granja in Flames —Berlin on Violent Gunfire Near Arras.

Threats to Rumania.—There has evidently been a hitch in the Russo-German Peace Parley. The chief of the Russian delegates has told the Austro-Germans that if the Socialists imprisoned in Germany were not released the discussion of the exchange of prisoners would be difficult. Trotsky has also told the Rumanian authorities that the Power of the Soviets will not shrink from the harshest measures against the Rumanian counter-revolutionaries, the accomplices of Kaledin, Tcherbatcheff and the Rada, and will not respect the positions occupied by the conspirators of the Rumanian hierarchy.

Raid Liveliness.—There has been German activity in the west. There were five attempted raids on the British positions and all were repulsed.

GERMANS' THREE NIGHT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ATTACKS FAIL. AUDIENCE OF THE KING.

Hostile Raiding Parties Disorganised by Our Artillery Fire.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE, Wednesday.
9.50 A.M.—Yesterday evening, under cover of a heavy bombardment, three parties of the enemy attempted to raid our positions in the neighbourhood of Mericourt—south-east of Lens.

The hostile parties were disorganised by our artillery fire and failed to reach our trenches. They were then attacked in No Man's Land by our patrols, who inflicted many casualties on them and secured a few prisoners.

Other raids attempted by the enemy in the course of the night south of Lens, at Hill 70, in the neighbourhood of the Menin road, and north of Passchendaele were all repulsed.

We secured a few more prisoners in these encounters.

GUN FIRING ON ARRAS FRONT INCREASING.

Germans Claim Capture of 500 Men South of Marcoing.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.
Wednesday Afternoon.—Crown Prince Rupprecht's Front.—From midday onwards artillery activity increased on isolated sectors from Dixmude to Duale.

North and south of Lens it revived intermittently in support of successful reconnaissances.

Between Arras and St. Quentin also firing increased in violence at times. The number of English prisoners during the last few days south of Marcoing has increased to 500.

PETAINE'S STIRRING CALL TO HIS TROOPS.

France's Fate Demands Patience and Persistence.

PARIS, Tuesday (received yesterday).—General Pétain has addressed the following New Year Order of the Day to the troops:—

"Officers, non-commissioned officers and men. 1918 has dawned, and the fight must go on. The fate of France demands patience and persistence on your part.

"In attack as in defence you have shown your worth. On every occasion when the enemy has tried to break through, you have stopped him. It will be the same to-morrow.

"The collapse of Russia has not shaken your faith, which is strengthened by the help, every day more powerful, of the United States.

"You are resolute in your determination to fight as long as is necessary.

"I salute your colours, and in sending you the most affectionate wishes for 1918 I express to you once again, in addition to my pride in commanding you, my complete confidence in the future."—PETAINE.

18 BIG SHIPS DOWN.

The Admiralty shipping return shows that eighteen big ships were sunk last week, as compared with eleven during the preceding period.

	Over	Under	Fishing
Week ended.	1,600 tons.	1,800 tons.	Vessels.
Dec. 22	18	3	0
" 23	11	1	1
" 24	14	3	1
" 25	14	7	0
" 26	16	1	4

The weekly average in round figures of ships sunk in preceding months was:—

	Nov. (4 weeks)	Oct. (4 weeks)	Sept. (5 weeks)
	8	5	1
	6	1	1
	12	6	1

The arrivals and sailings of merchant ships of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) for the week ending December 29 were 21 and 20,4, a 16, and 13.

Eight ships unaccounted for.

INTER-ALLY CONFERENCE ON WAR PURCHASES.

Mr. Bonar Law and Mr. Chamberlain in Paris.

PARIS, Monday (received yesterday).—A meeting of the Inter-Ally Council on War Purchases and Finance was opened this afternoon at the Palace of the Legion of Honour.

Among those present were Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Lord Buckmaster, the official delegates of the British Government, who were accompanied by Sir Edmund Wyld, Mr. Smith and Mr. J. M. Keynes, of the British Treasury, and Major Moncrieff.

The Italian Government was represented by Signor Nitti, Minister for the Treasury, Baron Mayor des Planches and Signor Adalio, the permanent delegates of that Government on the Council, whilst Mr. Klotz, Minister of Finance, M. Clementel, Minister of Commerce, and M. Loucheur, Minister of Munitions, accompanied by Mr. Sergent, Avenol and Loque represented France.

The Government of the United States was represented by Mr. Oscar Terry Crosby, of the American Treasury.

A meeting of the finance section also took place, at which Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Klotz, Signor Nitti and Mr. Oscar T. Crosby were present.

The Council considered matters connected with the purchase of materials required by the Allies from the United States and various neutral countries, and also discussed matters of finance connected with these requirements.

Another sitting will be held to-morrow, and, possibly, a further one on Thursday.—Reuter.

OUR GUNNERS AND AIRMEN DO FINE WORK IN ITALY.

Munition Dumps Exploded, Patrols Repelled and Airplanes Downed.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.
Wednesday.—During the day there were the usual artillery actions. The Italian and English batteries have brought about the explosion of two enemy munition dumps at Fontigo and to the south of Conegliano.

English patrols attacked the enemy's advanced positions, inflicting losses upon them and capturing prisoners.

About ten vessels loaded with troops, which attempted to approach the right bank of the Piave at Intestaduro, were dispersed by our fire. Airmen and English batteries brought down three enemy aeroplanes, and two others came down as the result of aerial battles with the Italian and French airmen.

During the course of the night enemy airmen dropped a few bombs on Mestre and Treviso without causing any damage or victims. They also bombed Bassano, where one death, five wounded and slight damage must be deplored.

Our squadrons bombed the aviation camps at La Comina and Aviano, causing extensive fires.

Enemy movements at the railway station of Sino de Livenza and the barracks have been bombed effectively by one of our dirigibles.

German Official.—Wednesday Afternoon.—Firing activity increased at times on the Asiago Plateau and in the Tonba region.

Austrian Official.—Early on December 26 our men on the bridgehead near Zenson were withdrawn, without loss, to the eastern bank of the Piave.

The enemy, who only discovered this evacuation, on December 31, directed uninterrupted artillery and mine fire up till that day on the field works which had been left behind.

"FOE OF HUMAN RACE."

Admiral Sir David Beatty, responding to New Year salutations from the Lord Mayor of London, telegraphed:—

"On behalf of the Grand Fleet I thank you and the citizens of London most warmly for your inspiring message, which is greatly appreciated. We hope that this year may see the consummation of our desires and the final overthrow of the enemies of the human race."

RUSSIANS' DEMAND OF GERMANY.

Imprisoned Socialists Must Be Released.

PEACE DIFFICULTY.

PETROGRAD, Tuesday.—The Bolshevik Petrograd News Agency says:—

The first meeting took place in Petrograd yesterday of Austro-German and Russian delegations, which are conducting pourparlers with a view to improving the conditions of prisoners of war and civilian prisoners.

After a few words of welcome to the members of the delegations, "Comrade" Radek spoke as follows in the name of the Russian delegation:—

"Gentlemen,—On the authority of the Russian delegation I have to make the following statement. At the moment when our conference assemblies were the chief of alleviating the miseries of war I have to announce that to those who have fallen victims in the battle for peace have now been added still more sufferers.

"Many German friends of peace, Social-Democrats and Independents, according to information received, have been put into prison in consequence of their fight for peace. It is impossible at present to verify this report, but if it should be well founded, the possibility of making a start with our humanitarian work will be made infinitely more difficult."

"THE COMMON TASK."

"We hope that the members of the Austro-German delegation will make the situation known to their respective Governments, so that suitable measures may be taken which will enable the representatives of this revolutionary spirit to apply themselves with complete confidence to the common task."

Count Mirbach, in the name of the German delegation, declared that nothing was known by the German representatives.—Reuter.

A Petrograd telegram received yesterday says that the conference between the Bolsheviks and Germans at Petrograd divided into committees dealing with economics and with prisoners of war. The Austro-German delegations proposed the formation of a committee to consider the question of the resumption of commercial relations.

"Comrade" Radek, in the name of the Russian delegation, declared that the situation in regard to peace conditions created by the Germans did not present permit the discussion of economic relations except in so far as the improvement in the condition of prisoners of war was concerned.—Reuter.

PETROGRAD, Tuesday.—The first diplomatic courier from the Smolny Government left this morning for London. He is a workman named Holzman, who previously lived in London as a political refugee.—Exchange.

Another Petrograd Exchange message received yesterday states that information has been received at the Smolny Institute that the situation on the Rumanian front is most tragic. The relations between the Bolsheviks and the officers of the Rumanian Army grow worse and are becoming alarming.

The Rumanians have occupied the small Bessarabian town of Leova, and villages and have arrested and shot several Bolshevik leaders. Tcherbatcheff has abstained from sending provisions and forage to the Bolshevik 4th Army.

NEW AMBASSADOR FOR LONDON.

Trotsky has addressed a note to the Rumanian Ambassador on the matter and drawing attention to what the Soviet wants. Harsh measures are threatened against Rumanian officers for aiding Kaledin.

Zurich, Tuesday (received yesterday).—The Austro-German Patriotic Committee, which has its headquarters at Graz, has issued the following appeal: "We reject with all our energy the idea of a shameful and miserable peace of annihilation—peace without indemnity and without annexations."

"We demand, on the contrary, in the strongest manner, a victorious peace, with territorial annexations, and with rights corresponding to our great military successes."

A Russian communiqué per wireless says: In the name of the Councils of Workmen, Soldiers' and Peasants' Deputies, by the present decree Citizen Litvinoff is appointed Provisional Plenipotentiary in London of the People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs.

Any resistance in this respect to the orders of Mr. Litvinoff will be regarded as a crime against the State.—(Signed) L. TROTSKY.

£500,000 BLAZE IN U.S.

NORFOLK (Virginia), Wednesday.—Three separate fires broke out in Norfolk to-day, following explosions believed to have been due to espionage.

Damage amounting to some £500,000 was caused, but 1,000 sailors and marines, after working with the firemen for many hours, succeeded in preventing the spread of the conflagration, which at one time threatened disaster to the city.—Central News.

Sir John Jellicoe and Admiral Wemyss Also Received.

The Prime Minister had an audience of the King yesterday afternoon at Buckingham Palace.

Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, the new First Sea Lord, Sir John Jellicoe, the retiring First Sea Lord, and Lord Athlone also had audiences of his Majesty.

SIX HUN PLANES DOWNED BY THE FRENCH.

Successful Trench Raid to the North of Courtecon.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.
Wednesday Afternoon.—There was an intermittent cannonade at several points on the front. We successfully carried out a raid in the region north of Courtecon and brought back prisoners.

There were patrol encounters south of Corbeny. The night was quiet everywhere else.

Our pilots in the course of numerous aerial fights brought down during the day yesterday four German aeroplanes, and in addition two other enemy machines which were seriously damaged fell in their own lines.—Reuter.

GERMAN OFFICIAL.
Wednesday Afternoon.—There was increased fighting activity north of Prosenes and on both sides of Ornes.

Reconnoitring advances at several points on the front led to the capture of a number of French prisoners.—Admiralty per Wireless.

SPANISH PALACE AFLAME.

MADRID, Wednesday.—The Royal Palace at La Granja is in flames. Details are at present lacking.—Reuter.

The La Granja or San Ildefonso is the summer palace of the King of Spain.

The Court generally spends July, August and September there to escape the heat of Madrid, but in other months of the year the town wears a deserted aspect.

It is forty miles north-north-west of Madrid and six miles south-east of Segovia. The palace stands on a range of mountains 4,000ft. above sea level. It was built by Philip V.

KING CHRISTIAN'S WISH.

COPENHAGEN, Tuesday (received yesterday).—At dinner this evening King Christian proposed the toast of Denmark and said: "We enter upon this New Year under the shadow of a world war."

"We are grateful for the peace which we still enjoy, and we hope that it will bring relief. We are strengthened by the solidarity of our people and by the spirit of harmony in the northern countries, which has been manifested in different ways, with the common aim of fixing co-operation among the three peoples. I hope for peace for our country and prosperity for our people."—Reuter.

NEW YORK, Wednesday.—M. Tardieu, the French High Commissioner, has returned to the States. In an interview he said: "We are entering upon the war's darkest period, but in six months the victory will be decided."—Exchange.

KILLED IN ACTION.

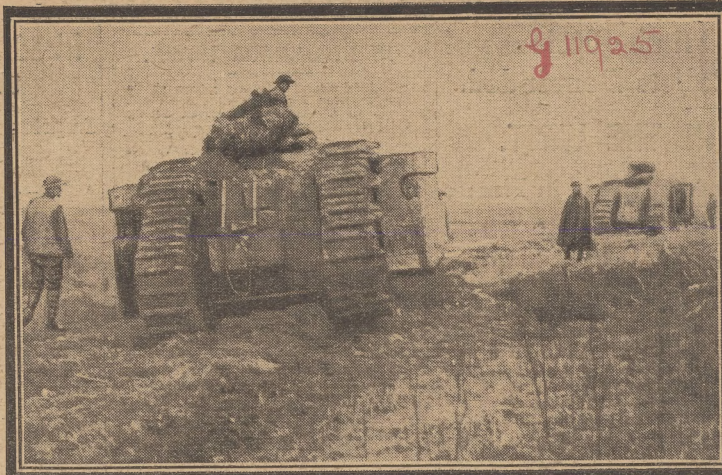


Lt. Russell Winnicott, M.C., R.F.C., son of Alderman E. W. Winnicott, J.P., Plymouth, killed at nine years of age. He brought down twelve enemy machines.



Pte. John Henry, Irish Guards, killed. He won the D.C.M. for holding a position when wounded.

QUITE A GOOD ROAD—FOR TANKS.



Tanks on their way to the front line on the western front. It would be difficult ground for any vehicle, but for a tank it can be accounted "easy going," as there are no obstacles for them to overcome. One man is seen having a ride on the top.—(Canadian War Records.)

MEN IN THE WAR NEWS.



Lt.-Col. Frederick Hall, R.F.A., M.P. for Dulwich, awarded the D.S.O. He repaid signal service in raising men for the Army in the early days of the war.



Lt. (acting Capt.) Viscount Holmesdale, Coldstream Guards, promoted captain. He is the eldest son of Earl Amherst (Spaight.)



Lt.-Col. F. Worthington, R.A.M.C., M.B., who has been awarded a bar to his D.S.O.

FAMOUS ADMIRALS



Admiral Benson, U.S.N., Beatty, Commander-in-Chief the flagship.

WOMEN MAKE TRENCH ESSENTIALS FOR THE FRENCH ARMY.



The work is carried on almost entirely by yomen.



Pulling a truckload.

Duck-boards are required in ever increasing quantities for the trenches and the sodden ground in Flanders, and work never ceases at this huge depot in Northern France.—(French official photographs.)



HIS PRIZE.—Nurse shows a patient the War Bond he has won, while his comrades drink to his speedy recovery. The photograph was taken at a large private house at Sidmouth, which has been converted into a V.A.D. hospital. The men who were well enough sat up to let in the New Year.



"THE OLD VIC."—The Marchioness of Headfort, who is selling tickets for the matinee in aid of the "Old Vic" on January 11.



A WAAC CHIEF.—Miss Macqueen, Deputy Chief Controller at Devonshire House, the headquarters of the Waac. She was engaged in Red Cross work earlier in the war.

MORE MARINES FOR U.S. NAVY



American marines at rifle drill. A large number of have joined this branch of the service and are now in training in various camps in U.S.A.

MEET

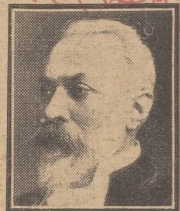


Admiral Sir David
... before leaving
(...)

PORTRAITS OF INTEREST.



Lt. Col. Sir Harry Verney,
M.C., who has been awarded the D.S.O. He has represented North Bucks as a Liberal M.P. (1906 and 1914).



Sir William Heerlein Lindley, who has died. He was responsible for various engineering works in many of the principal Continental cities. (Edin. and F.R.S.)



Brig.-Gen. J. M. Ross, Canadian Infantry, who has been awarded a bar to his D.S.O.

ROMANCE OF THE WAR.



... (New Zealand), who is recovering from ... his wife, the daughter of a Devonshire ... to make butter. The couple met in England.

"CHINATOWN" IN HOSPITAL WARD.



New Year festivities were held at the Endell-street Military Hospital, and many of the patients were dressed as Chinamen, pigtails and all. Everything was done to complete the illusion, and the lanterns and decorations gave the ward an Oriental atmosphere.

PICKED UP LIVE BOMB.



Sgt. D. J. Warwicks (Canadians), awarded the M.M. for picking up a live bomb and throwing it clear of some men.



Mrs. Archibald MacLaren, whose husband is organising the production of rare metals, hitherto the monopolies of the Germans.

TEETOTALLERS PERFORCE—GERMAN SAILORS IN A "DRY" STATE.



Water their only drink.



Taking their daily walk beneath the shade of the Southern Pines.

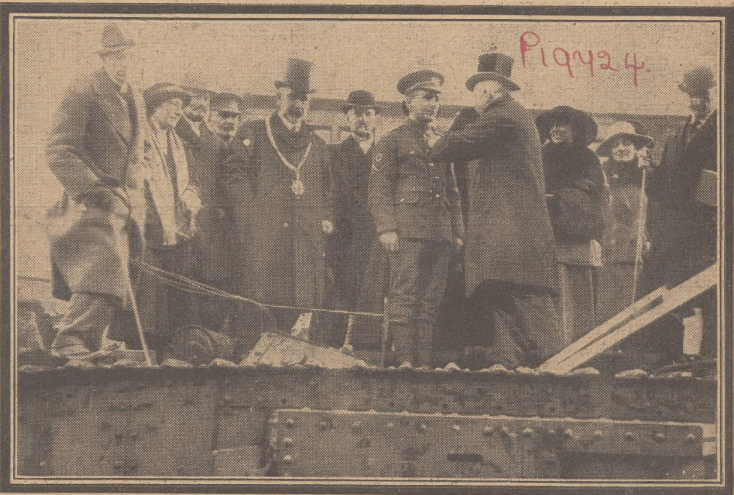
German sailors who are interned at Fort McPherson, Galveston, are living in a "dry" State, which means that prohibition is in force, and they are all longing for the days when they will once more taste their beloved Munich brew.



SOLDIER AND SAILOR.
Acting Lt.-Col. John Cresswell Eyres, R.G.A., a retired rear-admiral, who has been awarded the D.S.O.—(Swansea)



NEW HOSPITAL.—Mrs. Ralph Delms Radcliffe (formerly Countess Ostrousoff, who has opened a hospital at Boulogne, in addition to another one she has already organised.



DECORATED ON TOP OF A TANK.—Lance-Corporal J. G. Walls, who, after being only six days at the front, crawled, under heavy fire, to the rescue of a tank's crew, being decorated with the M.M. by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, one of the New Year Knights.

Daily Mirror

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1918.

HELPLESSNESS.

THIS time of year is ordinarily a time for the arrival of Forms, On His Majesty's Service. The war has increased them greatly. Forms and cards dominate us.

Sometimes—so weak is the flesh—we grow impatient. Let us look at it from the departmental point of view and change our impatience for pity.

Certain Forms—income-tax Forms, for instance—are difficult: it seems, unnecessarily so. Others are simple. But, simple or difficult, they encounter, amongst millions of well-meaning people, in this our highly civilised and universally educated age, an invariable density, an inability to do what is requested, a helplessness incurable.

The filling of the sugar Forms revealed this incapacity, we hear, to an amazing degree. Like the Catechism, they mainly demanded your name or names. But people couldn't see it. They gave other names, or their own names wrongly, or two persons' names, or no name. As our cartoonist indicated yesterday, their attitudes could be grouped in various ways of common perplexity. They forgot. They couldn't be bothered. They wanted to know what, O what, did it mean. They denied it to be necessary. They conceived projects of escape. They sought to secure sugar illegitimately. Even now many do not know that new arrangements are in working order.

But this has to do only with sugar.

With any other formality or official requirement of verbal declaration or writing, it would be the same.

Wills, for instance.

Who knows how to make a will? A lawyer's will—it teems with blunders. Go further. Leave writing and officialdom, and go, say, into the tube. Observe the advice on the walls. Observe the wise Company's so carefully framed directions, plastering the tiles. "Move up the lift. Move right down the car. Don't stand in gangways. If about a thousand people are behind you, don't stand stock still impeding them. Don't refuse to take a seat when there's one empty. Be sensible. Wake up. Remember you are men and women. Don't then act like silly sheep or hens in the road..." They do not exactly put it that way, but that is what they mean.

And the result of all this placarded advice is that none will move up in a lift, but all will stand stock still and prevent others from moving; none will move right down the car, but all will stand in the car, hindering others from seats; none will act as man or woman; all will be as sheep or as hens. Nothing doing. . . Hopeless. Placards in the wilderness. Pessimism.

Poor over-taxed Departments, then—imagine their difficulties in January! Instead of reviling them for what at times seems the almost scholastic or Byzantine elaboration and subdivision of their queries, let us help them by heeding their Forms, by a strenuous intellectual effort in filling up; and then, for after the war, by bringing in that thing unknown to our civilisation—elementary education for rich and poor alike: education in reading, writing, and attending to what is asked of us by the Departments.

W. M.

WINTER NIGHTS.

The Winter falls; the frozen rut
Is bound with silver bars;
The snowdrift heaps against the hut,
And night is pierc'd with stars.
—COVENTRY PATMORE.

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

This world's affairs are but the scaffolding of the great temple which God is building, and which is to be filled at last with His glory. If we remember, and act on the remembrance, that art, trade, politics, all the departments of human life, are to be made subordinate to God's great design, then these activities are not only lawful, they are a part of our Christian service; the scaffolding will some day disappear, but not till the temple is complete.—Robert Dale.



Mrs. Webb-Bowen, wife of Colonel Webb-Bowen, recently deceased.



The Hon. Mrs. John Seely, whose husband becomes a G.M.G.

LABOUR AND MAN POWER.

Socialism and the Army—More Musical Farces for London.

TO-DAY great interest is centring on Mr. Lloyd George's meeting with the trade unions' leaders. The Premier is expected, I find, to state frankly the needs of the nation in the

TO-DAY'S GOSSIP

News and Views About Men, Women, and Affairs in General

H. G. Wells' Chance.—I met a man yesterday who was apprenticed in the same country retail shop as Mr. H. G. Wells. "If Wells had stuck it," he told me, "he might have a shop of his own by now." How some people miss their chances in life!

The Blue Triangle.—Lady Rhonda takes a deal of interest in the Blue Triangle huts. I saw her in one recently, and now hear she is to reside at a big dinner—big in the sense of numbers—to be given to celebrate their success.

At the Palace.—I paused outside Buckingham Palace on my rambles yesterday to see some of the heroes come out from being decorated. I was in time to see Sergeant Knight, V.C., of the London Regiment, seized by a

Against the Woman Voter.—Lord Balfour of Burleigh is a believer in the referendum. At least, next week, when the Lords are considering the Franchise Bill, he will advocate a referendum on the subject of giving women the vote. Apparently

he does not wish such a step to be taken without seeing what the people think about it. Here he is, looking none the worse for his recent mishap, when he slipped on a mat and injured his knee.

A Wedding.—To-day week the Guards' Chapel will witness the wedding of Mr. M. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Malcolm, a Scots Guardsman, to the Hon. Geraldine Digby, one of Lord Digby's three girls. She is only nineteen. Her eldest brother has gained the Military Cross, the Croix de Guerre, and a "mention."

Peers at Work.—It will be a "day of small things" for the Lords when they go back to work to-day. The really controversial business will begin next week, when they get busy on the Franchise Bill's Committee stage.

What Ladies Like.—"Out of Hell" is the striking title of a play which Mr. C. B. Cochran tells me he is producing at the Ambassadors on Saturday. He described it as a "play for women," who always did like their dramatic fare flavoured.

Miss Emery Returns.—I met Miss Winifred Emery yesterday battling with the bitter wind. She told me that she intends to return to the stage about April, by which time she hopes her husband will be home after his tour.

Whitehall Fashion.—There is at least one Government girl clerk who is regretting the abandonment of the uniform idea. "I heard that it was to be grey," she mourned to me; "and grey was always my colour."

Farces with Music.—Writers of musical comedy, despairing of evolving original plots, are turning more and more to farces for inspiration. Three successful musical comedies now running in London were inspired by works originally written as "straight" farces.

Another One.—Now I hear that a farcical comedy which had a long run at the Criterion will shortly be seen again all dressed up with music and dancing. Miss Dithy Tarling, the dancer, will have a part in it, and is now studying singing to that end.

Eloquent.—My butcher gave me a homely but striking illustration of the meat shortage. "I have often seen," said he, "more meat in my shop than there was in the whole of Smithfield Market yesterday."

Cripples' Cheer.—A thousand crippled children were having a good time when I looked in at the Guildhall yesterday. Sir George Perley represented the Canadian founders of the feast. The Lord Mayor was there, too, not to mention fairies and niggers.

More War Slang.—I am told that the American artillerymen call shells for their field guns "cough drops."

Vimy to Gaity.—The latest theatrical victim of the anonymous "Why-aren't-you-in-khaki?" pest is Mr. Claude Cameron, whom you see here. As a matter of old fact, Mr. Cameron has been three years' service in the field, and after having been blown up and buried by a mine at Vimy Ridge was discharged with the rank of lieutenant. He is now in "The Beauty Spot" at the Gaity.

Unlucky to Bob.—I notice that some of the actresses who recently "bobbed" their hair are letting it grow again. Miss Dorothy Minto solemnly told me the other day that she thought it was not lucky. You know how superstitious the stage is!

THE RAMBLER.

DOGS THAT "NEVER WOULD BE MISSED"



There was a hint in our "Gossip" column yesterday that a higher dog licence is in contemplation. Might not the licences for just a few dogs be cancelled altogether?—(By W. K. Haselden.)

months of trial which lie before us. Of course, the results of the conference will not fully be made manifest till the meeting of the Commons on the 14th of this month.

Counter to Politics.—I hear that it is possible that Mr. W. C. Anderson will be offered a job in the Food Ministry. Mr. Anderson is a quiet, studious man, with a liking for Henry George. At one time he was a chemist's assistant.

A Socialist Soldier.—I met Mr. Victor Grayson the other day. The one-time Socialist M.P. for Colne Valley was just out of hospital. I gathered that as a result of his wounds his Army days are numbered, and it will not be long before he re-enters Parliament—quite a different sort of M.P. from the Victor Grayson of old.

Canadian Postmaster in Training.—I learn that the Hon. P. E. Blondin, Canadian Postmaster, who brought over a battalion of French Canadian reinforcements, is remaining here to take an officers' course of training at one of the Canadian camps in England.

whooping group of comrades and carried shoulder high.

Rejected Honours.—Mr. John Galsworthy is not the only distinguished person who has declined a title. Gladstone and Chamberlain are names that readily occur. And why is Mr. Rudyard Kipling "Mr." save at his own wish?

New Crub Street.—"Literature is its own reward," remarked Mr. Galsworthy—a sentiment which will be gloomily echoed by some struggling authors.

Promotion.—Young Sir George Duckworth-King, I notice, gets his captaincy in the Grenadiers. He is twenty-six, and was wounded early in the war. He was married in 1915, and has two little girls.

And Another.—Another promotion to lord is that of Viscount Holmesdale, Lord Amherst's heir, who only celebrated his majority a few weeks ago! (There is a subtle play on words here.) He comes of a fighting family.



Mr. Claude Cameron.

BRITISH AIRSHIP WRECKED ABROAD: SEE PICTURES ON PAGE ONE.

Daily Mirror

"SHE IS INNOCENT."



Louis Voisin
Bertha Roche
 Louis Voisin and Bertha Roche, who are charged with the murder of Emilienne Gerard at Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, were committed for trial at Marlborough-street Police Court yesterday. "Mme. Roche is absolutely innocent," said Voisin in a statement.

A THOROUGH TRAINING.



Recruits to the American Navy undergoing a special course of instruction at Columbia University. They are here seen learning all about the motor which is used on the U.S. submarine chasers.

MILITARY WEDDING IN LONDON.



Captain Key Jones (Welsh Regiment) and his bride, Miss Elaine Buchanan, leaving St. Margaret's, Westminster.

EIGHT V.C.s DECORATED BY THE KING.



Sergeant Knight, V.C., London Regiment, was carried shoulder high from the Palace by his comrades.



Captain Porter, D.S.C., shaking hands with E. Witten, who won the same decoration.



Sergeant Greaves, one of the V.C.s.



Private Halton, one of the V.C.s.

Brigadier-General Clifford Coffin, D.S.O., R.E., who was decorated with the V.C.



Colonel Webber, C.M.G. and D.S.O.



Captain Paulden, M.C. and Seaforth.

The King returned from Sandringham yesterday and held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace, at which he decorated naval and military officers and nurses. Eight V.C.s were among the number. —(Daily Mirror and L.N.A.)

PARENTS SEE THEIR V.C. SON MADE A FREEMAN.



Lieutenant Robert Shankland, V.C., receiving the freedom of Ayr. Among those on the platform were the heroic officer's mother and father and the Marquis and Marchioness of Ailsa. Provost Mitchell presided.